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TENANTS QUIZZED AFTER FATAL FIRE; ARSON IS HINTED

Fire Marshal Declares Blaze That Killed Woman, Hurt Five "Suspicious."

Police of the Fourth ave. precinct and representatives of the Fire Marshal's office today questioned persons who live at 4805 Fifth ave., where last night there was a fire which resulted in the death of one person and the injury of several others.

Fire Marshal Thomas P. Brophy, who was at the scene of the fire, said that the blaze was "of suspicious origin." The authorities said today that either kerosene or gasoline had been scented by the first firemen who arrived at the burning building, a four-story brick structure.

Miss Maude Patterson, 51, who lived in a top-floor apartment, was killed. Mrs. Millicent Primmer, with whom Miss Patterson lived, was removed to the Norwegian Hospital where today her condition was reported as "fair." Four others who were injured were reported in good condition today.

Others injured were: Mrs. Hannah Jeensen, 78, who lived on the second floor, treated for shock; Miss Josephine Barlage, 26, third floor tenant, abrasions of the left ankle; Evelyn Hankin, nine, and Viola Ingain, 17, who were overcome by smoke, which penetrated into their home next door at 4803 Fifth ave.

These injured remained at home after being treated by an ambulance surgeon from the Norwegian Hospital.

Screaming for Help.

The explosion, the police believe, occurred on the stairs leading from the ground entrance to the second floor. The fire that, followed flamed up the staircase and mushroomed through the upper floors, cutting off the escape of the tenants in the apartments above.

As the first police arrived, the occupants of the building were huddled on fire escapes, screaming for help, unable to reach the ground because of the flames and smoke which were pouring from the entrance of the apartment house and from second floor windows.

Primmer, his wife and Miss Patterson (Mrs. Primmer's sister) were in their apartment when the blast shook the building. Mrs. Primmer was in bed and Primmer ran to their side and carried her to the front, making his way out on the fire escape. He then left Primmer to return for Miss Patterson, flames already had reached that floor and he was unable to reach the kitchen where she had been sitting. After the fire was extinguished she was found there suffocated.

Patrolmen Save Two

Patrolmen Charles Ster, Raymond Kelly, William Henry and John Boles, all of the Fifth Ave. precinct, were the first to arrive. Henney, a small but agile man, entered the first floor platform of the fire escape by climbing an awning. The others followed him, and finally managed to assist those huddled on the fire escape to the ground. In the meantime Heaney made his way to the next building and there carried out Viola Ingain and Evelyn Hankin who had collapsed from smoke.

Mrs. Primmer was burned as the flames swept around her and her husband, but she remained at home after first aid treatment. Mrs. Jensen collapsed from shock in her second floor apartment and was rescued by police, while Miss Barlage fell trying to reach the street and bruised her ankle.

The ground floor stores in the building—two of them—are occupied by a stationery store run by Lena Zimmerman and a tailor shop, operated by M. Jacoby. The latter place was closed for the night when the explosion occurred while Mrs. Zimmerman was just preparing to close her place for the night. She was not hurt.

Fire Halts Night Classes In Eastern District H. S.

Fire started by spontaneous combustion among chemicals in a cabinet caused slight damage at 7 o'clock last night in a chemistry laboratory on the fourth floor of the five-story brick building of Eastern District High School, at 327 Marcy ave.

About 2,000 students who had not arrived for evening classes had to leave and walk outside the school for half an hour.

The flames were discovered by students who arrived early. Martin Mendel, principal, summoned the fire apparatus. Firemen had to demolish the burning cabinet, the wall behind it and part of the floor to put out the flames.

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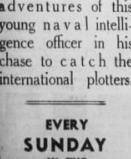

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EVERY SUNDAY IN THE TIMES UNION

Boro Firm Financially Ruined In Overthrowing New Deal

Schechter Brothers, Poultry Dealers, Spent $60,000 in Fight But Are Happy Over Success.

The Schechter brothers, four proprietors of a heretofore obscure Brooklyn poultry concern, which singlehandedly caused the overthrow of the National Industrial Recovery Act, were alternately gloomy and elated today.

Joseph Schechter, 35, eldest of the four brothers and head of the Schechter Poultry Corporation, said he "felt most happy" that the highest court in the land had found he was not guilty of misconduct in business. He sadly added, however, that his firm had spent $60,000 in the legal battle and that he would have preferred to go to jail if he had known it would cost so much.

Financially Ruined

Schechter explained that, although he had been determined to fight what he considered injustice, he had not realized the expense involved. He said he had thus far paid $25 each of the bill—"every nickel I had."

He asserted that the New Deal had virtually ruined him financially. The increased wages and the high price of grain needed to feed his poultry, he declared, put a crimp on his business, he declared, that he had been forced to close a branch poultry market at 931 Rockaway ave. and several retail stores. He said his company now operated at only 488 E. 52d st., and that that was closed temporarily because of the poultry strikes.

Hence, he declared, his income at the moment is nothing. He said that before the New Deal his concern had done a $20,000 business weekly and that just before he closed recently he was doing only $2,000 to $3,000 weekly.

Mr. Schechter is married and lives in a small apartment behind a poultry store at 247 Brighton Beach ave. Associated with him in business are his brothers, Abe, Martin and Abe. Aleg is 32 and is married. Martin and Abe, 29 and 28, respectively, with their father, David Schechter, at 412 Ralph ave.

Counsel Is Elated

"We feel most happy to say that the highest court in the land has found we are not guilty of any misconduct in business," Joseph said. "We always pride ourselves on conducting our business in the most upright manner, and it was only by reason of our refusal to comply with the provisions of a code authority which was interested only in its own self-preservation that we had any difficulties."

"Of course we are elated over the decision of the Supreme Court, with which we are of course unanimously in accord," Joseph Heller, attorney for the Schechter brothers, asserted in his home at 83 Crooke ave. Heller, with his brother, Jacob, and Frederick Wood, was counsel for the poultry men during the trial in Brooklyn Federal Court, and carried the appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals and to the United States Supreme Court.

"We are happy principally for personal reasons," he continued, "for we have kept our clients out of jail. But furthermore, we feel that we have rendered a public service in helping to prevent the N.R.A. from affecting the small business man adversely."

Gloom in Industry.

The store of the Schechter brothers, at 257 Brighton Beach ave., was dark and padlocked yesterday afternoon when word of the decision was taken there by a reporter.

There was a sign in the window which read: "We sympathize with the consumers' strike. Owing to the fact that we have only a few pounds left, I will close as soon as this is sold."

The sign evidently referred to the current strike of housewives against the high price of meat.

The whole store is only about 25 feet across the front and 25 feet deep; a very little and inconspicuous place to have its fortunes brought to the attention of the Supreme Court in Washington for a decision on the constitutionality of a Federal statute.

Mrs. Joseph Schechter, who had her 12-year-old son with her, and who said she wrote poetry as a hobby, told a caller that she was very, very happy at the Supreme Court's decision, but she expected it all along. "It's clear that their reputations have been cleared," she said. "They're all successful business men and they bear the best of reputations. It's been very humiliating to have them listed as breaking the code. Three weeks ago my husband was in Washington. He's been expecting the decision."

Mrs. Schechter displayed some verses which she said she had written, adding they expressed her sentiments thoroughly.

The verses are entitled: "Now That It's Over." They read as follows:

No more excuses
To hide our disgrace,
With pride and satisfaction
I'm showing my face.

For a long, long time
To be kept in suspense,
Sarcastic remarks made
At our expense.

I'm through with that experience
I hope for all my life
And proud again to be
Joseph Schechter's wife.

The Schechters' satisfaction with the court decision was not shared by the rest of the live poultry industry in the city, according to Leroy Peterson, local code supervisor for the industry.

"Less than a month ago the industry voted three to one to continue the code as beneficial to it," Peterson said. "The industry in the metropolitan area has 400 slaughter houses and about 7,000 employes. The annual retail volume of business is from $45,000,000 to $60,000,000.

"We have had telephone calls from various members of the industry, but they were all too shocked to formulate definite plans."

BETH MOSES CLINIC IS STILL PICKETED

Workers and Officials Fail to Heal Rift.

Striking employes continued to picket Beth Moses Hospital, Stuyvesant ave. and Hart st., today after failing to settle their differences with hospital authorities in a conference in the hospital last night.

The conference came to naught when a representative of the Association of Federated Workers, who accompanied a group of six striking employes, declined to withdraw from the meeting.

Morris Walzer, president of the hospital, who was chairman of the conference, adjourned the meeting when the delegation of striking employes supported the representative in his action.

Mr. Walzer, after the meeting, said it had been mutually agreed in advance that the business of the conference was to be restricted to striking employes and the board of directors of the hospital.

Before adjournment the striking employes were informed that nurses and employes on strike would be given until noon on May 29 to apply for reinstatement.

During the conference five persons picketed the entrance to the hospital on Stuyvesant ave. and about 50, carrying banners and placards, marched through neighboring streets.

FIVE SOLDIERS DROWN

Cloudburst Floods Amiens District in France.

Paris, May 28.—Five soldiers were reported drowned today as the result of a cloudburst that, breaking without warning, flooded the countryside in the Amiens district and sent inhabitants fleeing to rooftops.

Torrents poured through low portions of the country. Damage was reported great. Large factory districts were flooded.

Soldiers and firemen rescued many persons from roofs, working in total darkness under almost insurmountable difficulties.

It was impossible to determine whether there were additional deaths to those reported, as the country remained flooded.

CHINA HOLDS UP RELICS

Shanghai, May 28.—Customs officers at Tientsin have forbidden the exportation of archaeological treasures collected by Sven Hedin, eminent Swedish explorer, pending Government advices, a dispatch said today. The Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Articles has appealed to the Government not to permit Hedin's collection to go abroad.

EDITOR'S WIFE SUES HIM

Reno, Nev., May 28.—Mrs. Valerie Da Bloss Hazlitt sued Henry Hazlitt, New York magazine editor and author, for divorce today, charging cruelty. She was to obtain a secret and unpublished decree later today. They were married May 9, 1929.

THEIR SQUAWK KILLED THE BLUE EAGLE

The Schechter brothers, of Brooklyn, live poultry dealers, and their lawyer, snapped as they received the news that the Supreme Court of the United States had upset a conviction under the NRA, declaring it unconstitutional. Those thrust into the national spotlight were: Seated, Alexander Schechter, Joseph Heller. Joseph Schechter. Standing: Martin, left, and Aaron Schechter.

Scores Routed by "L" Fire Periled by Bridge 3d Rails

Passengers on Fulton Line Train in Panic As "Flare Up" Fills Cars With Smoke—Service Tied Up.

Scores of passengers were endangered last night when compelled to leave a six-car train of the Fulton St. elevated line, just before the train entered the Brooklyn Bridge Terminal, at Sands st, and made their way through the network of tracks and third rails, to a place of safety.

The passengers became panicky when there was a "flare" of sparks and flame, between the third and fourth cars of the train, and police say two of the cars caught fire.

Police Captain John McManus, of Traffic L, at Concord and Washington sts., and Police Sergt. Theodore Harfeld, were looking out of the window of the station house, which is just across the street from the railroad yard, when they saw the thick smoke and the flames rising from the cars. They summoned the reserves and hurried across the street and up the ramp, used by the surface cars entering the bridge.

By the time the police reached the scene the guards had been prevailed upon to open the gates, or the passengers had opened these themselves, and were scampering to the roadway, amid the maze of third rails.

Guided by the police officials and policemen the excited passengers were led to the ramp, stepping over the third rails and the footpaths, and finally were put aboard trolley cars bound for Manhattan.

In the meantime a call had been sent in for the fire department and when several apparatus arrived the firemen were able to extinguish the flames.

Police said later that the train bound from Lefferts ave. to Manhattan, experienced motor trouble as it was within a couple of blocks of the bridge terminal. Then followed the flare up, and soon the cars were filled with a thick smoke. Most of the passengers were in the two forward cars, police say, and when the fire occurred they were not endangered, but they safely negotiated the perils of the numerous third rails and so far as the police were able to learn, none of the passengers were injured.

The accident delayed traffic on the line about an hour, and in the meantime there were shuttle trains operated between Franklin and Lefferts aves.

AMERICAN WOMAN ROBBED

Loses $65,830 in Gems and Money in Paris Theft.

Paris, May 28.—Jewels and money worth 1,000,000 francs ($65,830) were stolen from the apartment of Mrs. Adolf Schwezer, American resident of Paris, police were advised today.

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3 TO FACE COURT AS MAN HUNTERS

Patrolman Says Trio Had Gun in Auto.

Three men, picked up last night in a parked car at 76th st. and 18th ave. by Patrolman James Cole of the Bath Beach station, were to be arraigned in Coney Island Court today on a charge of violating the Sullivan law.

The prisoners are Thomas Scarito, 25, of 1727 84th st.; John Bonino, 25, of 95 Second ave., Manhattan, and Frank Mancino, 27, of 337 South Fourth st. Cole, becoming suspicious of the trio while making his rounds, ordered them out of the car at the point of his gun and found a .32-caliber revolver on the floor of the car. They told him, he said, they knew it was there and were going to use it to "get" someone who failed to pay a bet in a dice game they were in last Sunday night.

Michael Di Bartolo, 44, of 6304 15th ave., was also to be arraigned in Coney Island Court today on a charge of violating the Sullivan law. The police raided his rooms last night and found two revolvers, one a .32 and the other a .38. One of the guns, DiBartolo said, he had found in Italy and the other here.

VAMPS PLAN MEMORIAL

Riverhead, May 28.—The Rev. James Alcock, pastor of the Congregational Church at Aquebogue, will deliver the principal address at the annual memorial service of the Riverhead Firemen's Association, held in the Fire Department headquarters on Second st. tonight.

Mr. Alcock, who is chaplain of the association, will preside. An address will also be made by the Rev. Dr. I. A. Marsland, pastor of the First M. E. Church of Riverhead. The invocation will be by the Rev. Charles MacLean, rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Benediction will be announced by the Rev. Joseph A. Zimmerman, pastor of the First Congregational Church. The music will include selections by a male quartet and a trumpet solo by Miss Daisy Alcock, of Aquebogue.

Members of the six fire companies of the Riverhead Fire Department, comprising the association will attend.

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